THE TOP CENTERFOLDS OF THE PAST 40 YEARS

COLLECTOR'S EDITION

PLAYBOY'S Playmates of the Year

WWW.PLAYBOYSE.COM

HEATHER KOZAR

KAREN VELEZ

JO COLLINS

KAREN MCDOUGAL

VICTORIA SILVSTEDT

ANNA NICOLE SMITH

JENNY MCCARTHY

RENEÉ TENISON

A Sexy Salute to Superstar Centerfolds—
ALSO FEATURING KATHY SHOWER, DEBRA JO FONDREN, CYNDI WOOD, DONNA MICHELLE, MARILYN COLE, JULIE CIALINI, PATTI MCGUIRE, BARBARA EDWARDS, INDIA ALLEN—AND THE REST OF THE BEST OF THE BEST.

0 30095 38597 3 21>

$6.95
Canada $7.95
U.K. £4.50
France Fr 40
Germany DM 22.50
38597 210
DISPLAY UNTIL JANUARY 22, 2001

PLAYBOY'S

Playmates of the Year

PLAYBOY

SPECIAL EDITIONS

Playmates of the YEAR

In 1960 Hef decided to anoint a single Centerfold as the Playmate of the Year. Ever since, the issue announcing his choice has been one of the most anticipated of the year. The covers displayed here are the ones that uncovered the 41 lucky ladies who got the nod.

Jodi Ann Paterson

Ellen Stratton 4

Linda Gamble 6

Christa Speck 6

June Cochran 7

Donna Michelle 8

Jo Collins 10

Allison Parks 12

Lisa Baker 14

Angela Dorian 15

Connie Kreski 16

Claudia Jennings 17

Sharon Clark 20

Liv Lindeland 21

Marilyn Cole 22

Cyndi Wood 24

Marilyn Lange 26

Lillian Müller 28

Patti McGuire 30

Debra Jo Fondren 32

Monique St. Pierre 36

Dorothy Stratten 38

Terri Welles 42

Shannon Tweed 43

Marianne Gravatte 48

Barbara Edwards 50

Karen Velez 52

Kathy Shower 54

Donna Edmondson 56

India Allen 58

Kimberley Conrad 62

Reneé Tenison 64

Lisa Matthews 68

Corinna Harney 70

Anna Nicole Smith 74

Jenny McCarthy 78

Julie Cialini 80

Stacy Sanches 82

Victoria Silvstedt 84

Karen McDougal 88

Heather Kozar 90

Playmates of the Year

We start off this sexy celebration of PMOYs with our very first Playmate of the Year ***Ellen Stratton*** 1960 (below) and our most recent, ***Jodi Ann Paterson*** 2000 (right). What follows is a virtual timeline of style and sexuality over the past 40 years—from the pageboys and beehives of the Sixties to the straight-haired Seventies to the anything-goes Eighties to the independent Nineties—a visual history of beauty and sensuality from the magazine that established the ultimate standards.

Linda Gamble 1961 (left) says her gig with Playboy was "the highlight of my life." She was a Chicago Bunny and on Hef's A-list. • ***Christa Speck*** 1962 (above) "was a special favorite of mine," Hef says. "She moved out of an unhappy relationship and into the Mansion and became a Chicago Bunny." • ***June Cochran*** 1963 (right) was admittedly "petrified" shooting her Centerfold, but she says if she had it to do all over again, she still would. "I wish my sisters had!"

Donna was one of the most unforgettable women I've ever known," Hef said of ***Donna Michelle***, 1964 "He's a charmer," she said of Hef. "I remember I took him to his first ballet in Chicago, and he enjoyed it." Their romance was brief, but the impression her PLAYBOY appearances made was lasting—especially the one on the cover of May '64's PLAYBOY, in which she posed in the shape of the famous Rabbit Head (above). Art Director Art Paul said it was no problem for her. "She got into that position with great ease and could still smile." Donna rode the crest of her popularity for a while—taking roles in such films as *Mickey One* and *Beach Blanket Bingo*—but eventually decided photography was her thing. Later she set up a catering business in California, where she still lives.

Jo Collins **1965 got her first break when a friend's father got her a job on *Queen for a Day*. Photographer Mario Casilli spotted her and convinced her that she had that girl-next-door look. In December 1964 she was officially crowned a Playmate of the Month—and she's been Playboy royalty ever since. Jo went on to become a Bunny and a Room Director at the Playboy Club, but she's probably most fondly remembered for going to Vietnam during the height of the war to personally deliver the first issue of a lifetime subscription of PLAYBOY to the men of the 173rd Airborne Brigade. In the ensuing years, she's been married and divorced three times (once to baseball pitcher Bo Belinsky) and has finally settled in the Chicago suburbs selling real estate.**

Thirty-four years after her PMOY selection people still treat ***Allison Parks*** 1966 like a celebrity. "It amazes me," she said, "but I'm sure I'll be asked to sit for an interview when I'm 90." After appearing in the magazine, Allison enjoyed a long and successful career as a commercial model. Her family commitments precluded a serious acting career, though she took lessons at Twentieth Century Fox and was a regular on *Playboy After Dark*. Today she works for a capital management firm in Southern California.

She went to California on vacation and ended up staying there for more than ten years. "The most wonderful thing happened to me," ***Lisa Baker*** 1967 (opposite) said. "I became a Playmate and then Playmate of the Year! It totally changed my life." A few years ago she moved back to her native Texas to be closer to her family. • If her name sounds suspiciously like the name of the Italian ocean liner that sank in 1956, that, at least, was no accident. ***Angela Dorian*** 1968, born Victoria Vetri, was talked into the gimmick by an agent and used that name for her Centerfold. She later resumed using her real name in films.

A chance encounter with Anthony Newley launched ***Connie Kreski***'s 1969 (above and below) film career, and a PLAYBOY fashion shoot introduced her to longtime love actor James Caan. Eventually she married a California businessman. • ***Claudia Jennings*** 1970 (right) first came to Playboy as a receptionist and resisted photographer Pompeo Posar's many invitations to pose. But Pompeo persisted and finally got her to agree to test. She passed and used the Playmate fees to finance her way to Tinseltown. There she established herself as a solid box-office attraction in numerous B films. "Even after she had become a movie actress," Pompeo recalled, "she always said, 'Pompeo, you changed my life!'"

She got off the plane from the Truk Islands after serving time as a Peace Corps worker and marched straight into our photo studio. "I learned that I don't really groove on the simple life," ***Sharon Clark*** 1971 (this page) told us. "I like to see cars moving on highways." • After some stage and film work, ***Liv Lindeland*** 1972 (right) took a stab at being a talent agent ("I wore myself out in a year, but it was great") before marrying Tony Martin Jr. and settling in Hawaii.

She started out as a London Bunny and a public relations rep at the Playboy Club but quickly landed in PLAYBOY—and on the arms of several very eligible bachelors, including Hugh Hefner, rocker Bryan Ferry and an English baron. ***Marilyn Cole*** 1973 broke a few hearts when she finally wed Playboy exec Victor Lownes in 1984. These days she divides her time between her homes in London, Aspen and New York.

Today *Cyndi Wood* 1974 writes, sings and plays original music, which she describes as power pop with a techno-European edge. She has had considerable musical success overseas and maintains two recording studios in the home she shares with her husband, a recording engineer whom she married at the age of 42. Cyndi is now working toward a Ph.D. in psychology and plans to open a center for accelerated learning. She currently works in a school for emotionally disturbed children.

She finds some of today's sexually explicit entertainment to be a bit over the top. "I kind of like the mystique sex use to have," ***Marilyn Lange*** 1975 says. "It's nice when there's a little room left for the imagination to work."

Lillian Müller 1976 was already a top model in Europe when she posed for what is often considered "the most striking Playmate pictorial ever." She once admitted to being "wildly jealous" of the other women in PLAYBOY, but she need not have; Hef adored her so much that once they met he flew her to LA and the two began a passionate relationship.

Although Lillian was uncomfortable with his other love interests—"I was very old-fashioned when it comes to sex, and I wanted to have him for myself"—the two have remained good friends over the years. "I wouldn't even be here without him. He helped me get my green card." Lillian now lives with her daughter and their dog in California.

Most people know that *Patti McGuire* 1977 and tennis great Jimmy Connors got married 20-plus years ago, but not many know how she and Playboy tied the knot. Turns out that Patti was a Bunny in St. Louis when the ever-vigilant Pompeo Posar saw her. He asked her if she wanted to try out for Centerfold. "That was my dream," she said, "but I didn't know how to go about it." Problem solved.

Her down-to-there hair was *Debra Jo Fondren*'s 1978 glory. Photographers loved her, PLAYBOY loved her, readers loved her. She was the obvious PMOY choice, and Debra Jo did the promotions and led the life until her hometown, Beaumont, Texas roots kicked in again. She became a born-again Christian. "No regrets. If I hadn't done Playboy I wouldn't be the same person I am today."

I had no idea that being in PLAYBOY would be such a big thing," Miss November '78 said. "Twenty-two years later I'm still involved." ***Monique St. Pierre*** **1979** came of age at a time when big-time modeling agencies freaked at nudity. "I was signed with Wilhelmina, but when she saw PLAYBOY, she went ballistic and I was sacked. These days you see nudity in *Vogue* and practically everywhere else."

Her time in the spotlight was all too brief, but ***Dorothy Stratten*** 1980 lit up the stage while she was here. "None of us ever fully recovered from Dorothy's death," Hef said. "She was a truly remarkable person who enriched the world for everyone who knew her." Her life was made into a Bob Fosse film, *Star 80*, and we are left to imagine how far her potential would have taken her.

After her Centerfold hit newsstands, ***Terri Welles*** 1981 (this page) appeared in several films. Her subsequent marriage to a hockey player iced over, but not before producing a daughter, who, Terri says, would like to follow in her Playmate mom's footsteps. • Once Hef's significant other, ***Shannon Tweed*** 1982 (opposite page) met and connected with Gene Simmons of Kiss fame at a party at the Mansion. The match stuck and produced two kids.

Everyone who met ***Marianne Gravette*** 1983 agrees that no other Playmate—and maybe no other woman on earth—was as shy as she was. How did this shrinking violet blossom into a Playmate? "I figured for once in my life I was going to take a chance!" Her risk was our good fortune, and becoming a PMOY was its own reward for her. Shunning showbiz, Marianne got married, had three kids and settled in southern California.

How many of us who think our lives would make interesting reading ever actually put pen to paper? ***Barbara Edwards*** 1984 is determined to do that and to share her life's highlights (Playmate and PMOY) and lowlights (an earthquake, a home invasion, family feuds) with her friends and fans. "This is my life we're talking about," she says, "but people laugh their heads off." A sense of humor has kept her grounded in good times and bad, and her family has been her strength. "We've overcome everything. There's nothing we can't make it through.—and we're still making it through!"

I always wondered what I'd look like as a pin-up," ***Karen Velez*** 1985 told us, and she found out in January 1984 when she made her PLAYBOY debut. Pretty damn good, we thought. So did Hef who eventually selected her as 1984's top Playmate. And so did Lee Majors, whom Karen met at one of Hef's Friday night movies. They married and had a couple of kids before going their separate ways 11 years later. In recent years she's found single life refreshing. "I've met some really nice people," she says, but I'm a one-man woman, and at this point in my life I just don't have the desire to make a commitment."

At 32 ***Kathy Shower*** 1986 was the oldest Playmate ever to win the PMOY title—and the first one whose two daughters accompanied her to the PMOY luncheon, where they almost stole the show. Writer Kevin Cook facetiously recalls, "Kathy's was the most glamorous Playmate interview I ever did: We took her kids to McDonald's." When not being a mom, she won dozens of stage, film and TV roles, most notably a three-year run on the *Santa Barbara* soap. On a promotional tour for that show, she fell in love with Europe, particularly Spain, pulled up stakes and moved there with her children. Both girls are out of the nest now, and Kathy continues to to seek out and accept juicy parts in Europe and the U.S.

At last check, ***Donna Edmondson*** 1987 had spurned all the showbiz offers, moved back to North Carolina and got her real estate license. "I'm a hometown girl and have connections here," she explained. At the time of her Centerfold she was dubbed the Virgin Playmate for her self-imposed chastity. She explained that she was waiting for someone she knew and loved to share her first intimate experience. Obviously she found him, because she and her husband now have two young children and live happily away from the bright lights.

Once married to USA Network sportscaster Bill Macatee, *India Allen* 1988 has since divorced and remarried, this time to a Marine Corps officer. Each marriage produced one child, a boy and a girl. Motherhood and family life haven't slowed her professional life down too much. After her Playmate and PMOY round of personal appearances, India appeared in or produced *Beverly Hills Cop II*, *Round Numbers*, *Wild Cactus*, *Silk Degrees*, *Seduce Me: Pamela Principle 2*, *The Force* and *Almost Hollywood*. A longtime cigar smoker, she takes pride in being an original fan. "We cigar smokers are a tight-knit group," she says. "It's been a fad recently, but we real ones will still be here when the others fall off."

Although they maintain separate households, the Hefners are still very close. "My main priorities in life are Hef and the boys," ***Kimberley Conrad*** 1989 says. "First and foremost is to raise my boys with good morals and values and to teach them self-respect, as well as respect for others." Kimberley's other pet project is working with animal rescue groups and she's an active supporter of PETA, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. "I'm also involved in my own menagerie of dogs and cats and various critters, the majority of which are rescues." She and the boys are avid snowboarders. "I'm known on the slopes as Shredding Betty," Kimberley laughs. "We have a great time out there."

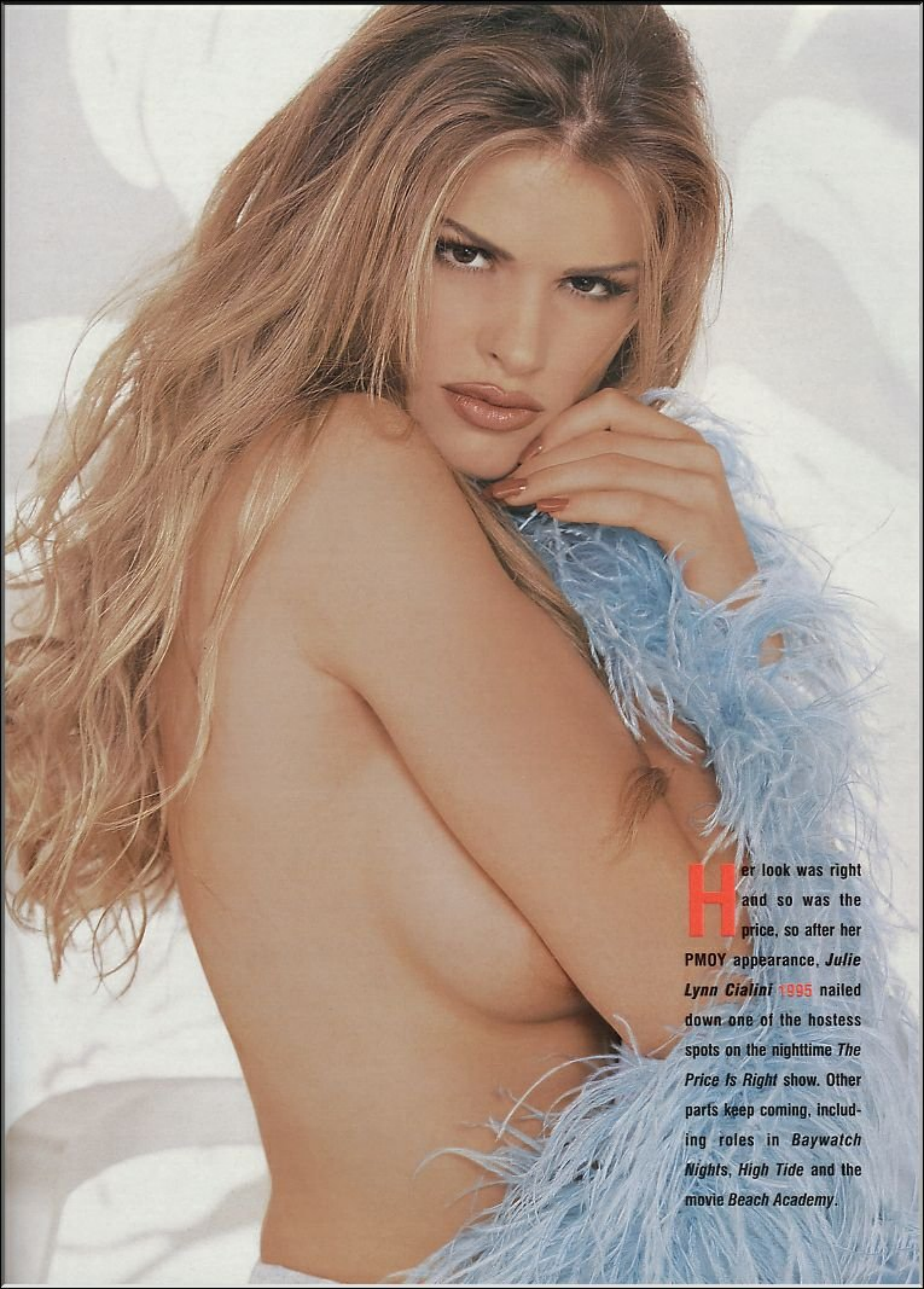
The daughter of a white mother and an African American father, *Renée Tenison*, 1990 grew up in Melba, Idaho. She worked in a computer factory, did some modeling and entered a few beauty contests before becoming a Playmate and the magazine's first Playmate of the Year of African American descent. Since then, she has enjoyed considerable success in Hollywood as an actress and model—appearing in countless TV shows including *Family Matters*, *Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*, *In Living Color* and *Veronica's Closet.*

She became a Playmate when a friend with the same modeling agency persuaded her to try out. "I was terrified," *Lisa Matthews* 1991 told us, "but everyone was very nice." A major highlight of Lisa's Playmate experience was appearing on the game show *Family Feud* for Team Playboy. "We kicked the other team's butt!" she boasts. No longer interested in modeling, Lisa spends her time on the horse-show circuit and traveling throughout the world.

Corinna Harney 1992 went into acting after her Playboy experience and continues to take classes to hone her skills. She's a born-and-bred Las Vegan, so the next job in LA is only an hour's flight away. But full-time residency in La-La-Land isn't an option. Her family and her sanity are more important, and she prefers watching stars in the desert sky over stars on Hollywood Boulevard. "I was married in 1994 and have a daughter named Kyler Victoria," she says. "In my spare time I enjoy writing poetry and shooting my guns."

Like a comet that streaks within sight only once every hundred years or so, ***Anna Nicole Smith*** 1993 flashed on the scene, lit up the Hollywood sky, became the most-talked-about phenomenon of the day—then disappeared from view, only to reappear, disappear and reappear again. Few sex symbols have exploded on the public consciousness more quickly or with as much impact as this small-town Texas single mom. Within the space of a few months she was whisked from her ho-hum existence in Mexia, Texas to the Centerfold of PLAYBOY, to giant billboards, to Hollywood film sets, to tabloid gossip columns and to the altar with an 89-year-old oil billionaire. After his death, she battled with his other heirs for a share of the estimated $1.6 billion estate. At last word she was awarded a major chunk—$449.7 million—subject, of course, to appeal. The statuesque widow was quoted as saying she was "very pleased" with the judgement. Duh.

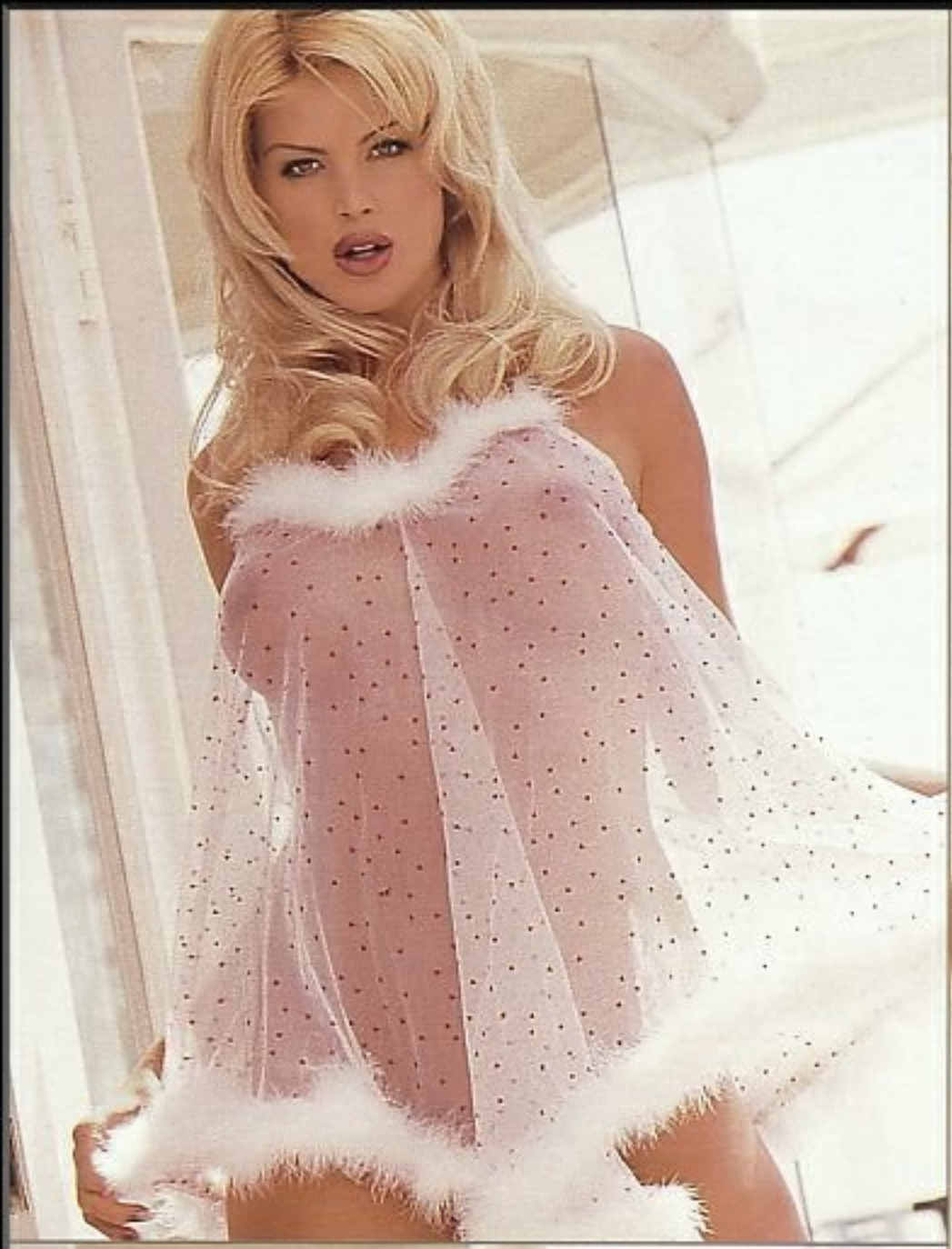
She candidly admits that she decided to appear in PLAYBOY as a launching pad for her showbiz ambitions—and what a ride it's been! Just months after *Jenny McCarthy* 1994 was named PMOY, she landed the hostess job for MTV's *Singled Out*. Her zany, goofy, earthy antics soon got the networks' attention, and a furious bidding war broke out for her talents. She made dozens of TV guest appearances, then was given her own MTV sitcom. The ratings didn't match her enthusiasm and the project was short-lived, but she's still in demand for film parts. Her most recent roles have been in *Diamons*, *The Stupids* and *Scream 3*.

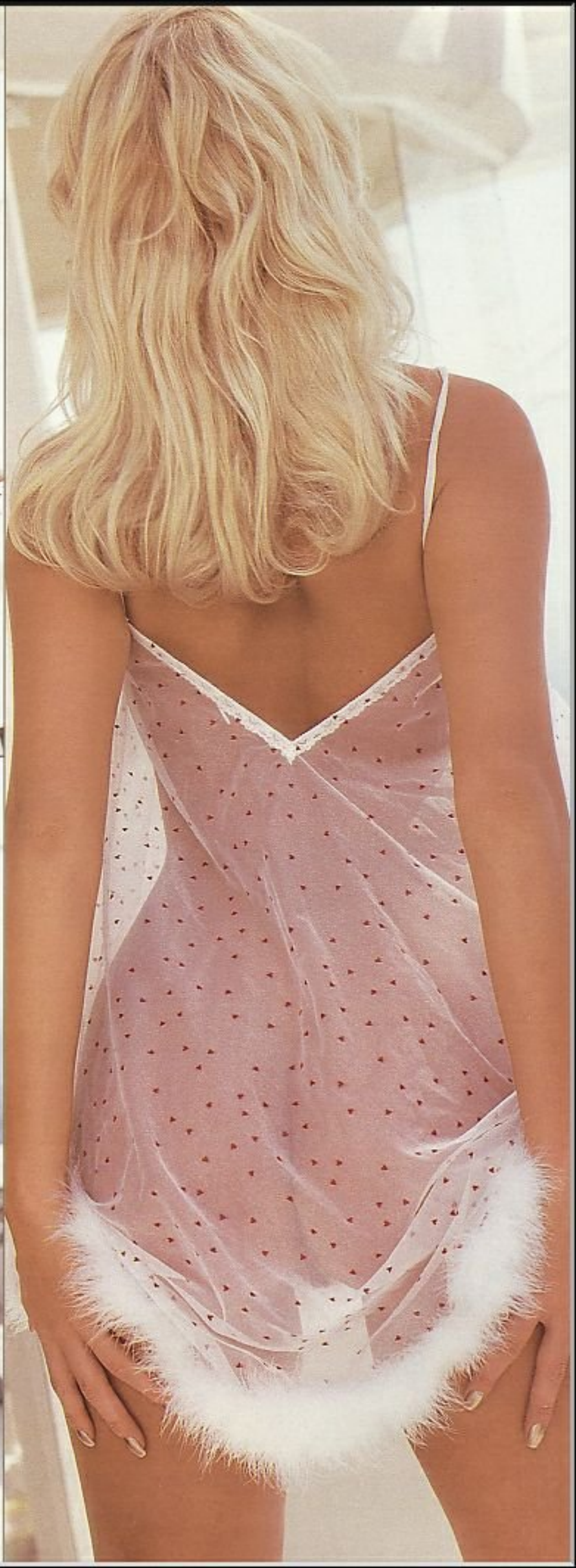


Her look was right and so was the price, so after her PMOY appearance, ***Julie Lynn Cialini*** 1995 nailed down one of the hostess spots on the nighttime *The Price Is Right* show. Other parts keep coming, including roles in *Baywatch Nights*, *High Tide* and the movie *Beach Academy*.

Stacy Sanches 1996 was plucked from a bikini contest and sent directly to a Playmate test. Becoming the PMOY was wish fulfillment. "I never thought that would happen to me. When I found out, I was happy and surprised. I often dreamed about it but never really thought it would come true." The best part of her PMOY reign, she says, was that "I got to travel the world and meet a lot of cool people. I don't know how it changed me, but I do know that my experiences were great."

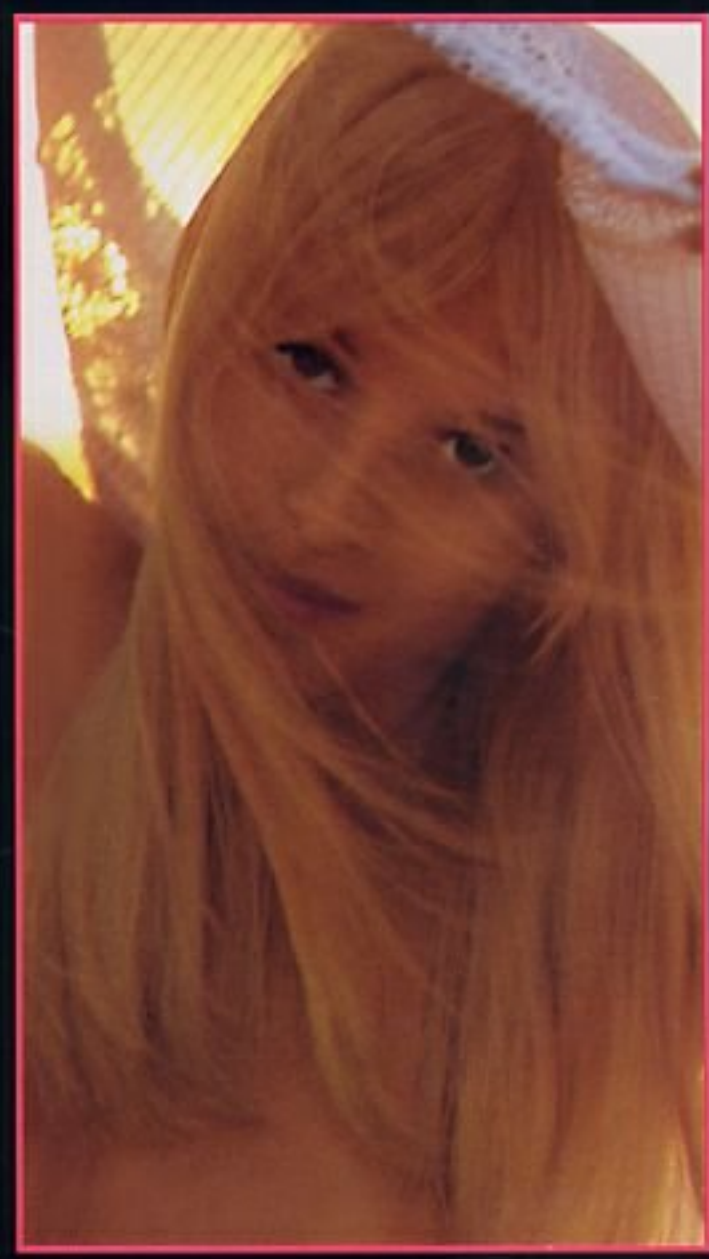
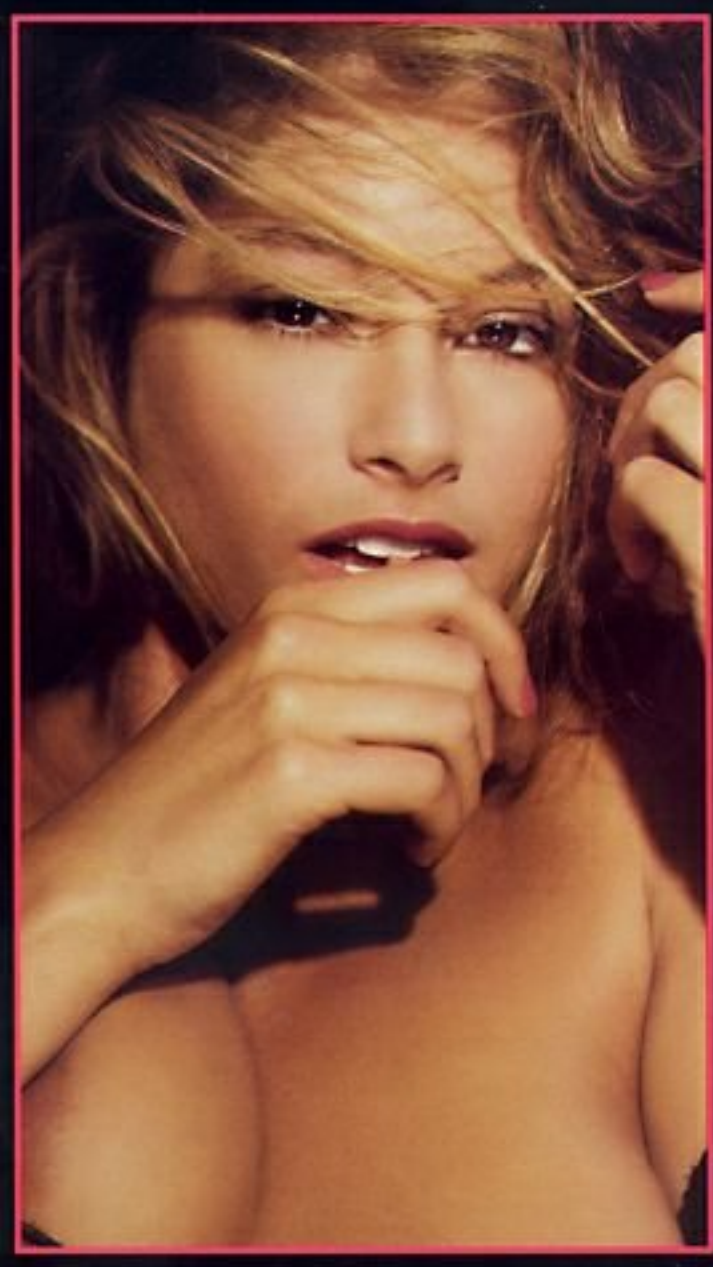
When she's not working ***Victoria Silvstedt*** 1997 loves going to the beach, roller-skating, water-skiing or horseback riding. "I also enjoy going to the movies a lot and dancing makes me crazy. I love everything from salsa to rock and roll. One other hobby is driving or riding fast in cars, on motorcycles, horses or skis—I love everything with speed. But there is no better way to relax than to hop into a hot tub or Jacuzzi, or have a long, deep, sensual massage." She advises women considering testing for Playboy to "be 100 percent comfortable with yourself and your body. You have to be ready to have ten people hurry around you. But it can also help you to like your body more and feel more sexy! I felt extremely sexy after my shoots! So when you're ready, rock on—when it rocks it rolls! Big time!"





In high school *Karen McDougal* 1998 did the cheerleader thing, but otherwise she says she was very quiet. "I was a pretty good girl—sort of prissy, in fact, but I got along with everybody." Her love for children set her on a teaching career path, but she took the Playboy fork in the road first. "I always wanted to model," she explains. "And I thought Playboy would be a great place to start." How did her hometown friends react? "They thought it was great. They were really excited for me. When I go home I feel like a celebrity. But I always try to make time for my high school friends."

Is there life after being a PMOY? ***Heather Kozar*** 1999 says yes, and it only keeps getting better and better. She recently shot several beer posters and is spokesmodel for a clothing line which is promoting new pants called the Wonder Pants that purportedly enhances your butt. She also shot the Chicago International Film Festival poster this year. In past years Victoria Silvstedt and Anna Nicole Smith have been the honored poster girls for this prestigious event. "My Website [www.heatherkozar.net] is going great," she says. "We're constantly updating the photo gallery and there are all kinds of great things there now. I've been getting a really good response. Altogether, I'm having a blast! The fun just keeps happening and my career's taking off."

PLAYMATES OF THE YEAR 1960-2000

Ellen Stratton
Linda Gamble
Christa Speck
June Cochran
Donna Michelle
Jo Collins
Allison Parks
Lisa Baker
Angela Dorian
Connie Kreski
Claudia Jennings
Sharon Clark
Liv Lindeland
Marilyn Cole
Cyndi Wood
Marilyn Lange
Lillian Müller
Patti McGuire
Debra Jo Fondren
Monique St. Pierre
Dorothy Stratten
Terri Welles
Shannon Tweed
Marianne Gravatte
Barbara Edwards
Karen Velez
Kathy Shower
Donna Edmondson
India Allen
Kimberley Conrad
Reneé Tenison
Lisa Matthews
Corinna Harney
Anna Nicole Smith
Jenny McCarthy
Julie Cialini
Stacy Sanches
Victoria Silvstedt
Karen McDougal
Heather Kozar
Jodi Ann Paterson